CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1144
7 January 1991

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH, FRENCH, RUSSIAN AND SPANISH

LETTER DATED 21 DECEMBER 1990 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION OF TWENTY-TWO STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE, SIGNED IN PARIS ON 19 NOVEMBER 1990

I have the honour to attach the official text in French, English, Spanish and Russian of the Joint Declaration of Twenty-two States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed on 19 November 1990, of which France is the depositary.

I would be grateful if you would ensure the distribution of this text as an official document of the Conference, and its translation into the other official languages of the Conference.

(Signed) Pierre MOREL

Ambassador
Representative of France
to the Conference on Disarmament

JOINT DECLARATION OF TWENTY-TWO STATES

The Heads of State or Government of Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America:

- greatly welcoming the historic changes in Europe,

- gratified by the growing implementation throughout Europe of a common commitment to pluralist democracy, the rule of law and human rights, which are essential to lasting security on the continent,

- affirming the end of the era of division and confrontation which has lasted for more than four decades, the improvement in relations among their countries and the contribution this makes to the security of all,

- confident that the signature of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe represents a major contribution to the common objective of increased security and stability in Europe, and

- convinced that these developments must form part of a continuing process of co-operation in building the structures of a more united continent,

Issue the following Declaration:

1. The signatories solemnly declare that, in the new era of European relations which is beginning, they are no longer adversaries, will build new partnerships and extend to each other the hand of friendship.

2. They recall their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirm all of their commitments under the Helsinki Final Act. They stress that all of the 10 Helsinki Principles are of primary significance and that, accordingly, they will be equally and unreservedly applied, each of them being interpreted taking into account the others. In that context, they affirm their obligation and commitment to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or the political independence of any State, from seeking to change existing borders by threat or use of force, and from acting in any other manner inconsistent with the principles and purposes of those documents. None of their weapons will ever be used except in self-defence or otherwise in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

3. They recognize that security is indivisible and that the security of each of their countries is inextricably linked to the security of all the States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

4. They undertake to maintain only such military capabilities as are necessary to prevent war and provide for effective defence. They will bear in mind the relationship between military capabilities and doctrines.

5. They reaffirm that every State has the right to be or not to be a party to a treaty of alliance.

6. They note with approval the intensification of political and military contacts among them to promote mutual understanding and confidence. They welcome in this context the positive responses made to recent proposals for new regular diplomatic liaison.

7. They declare their determination to contribute actively to conventional, nuclear and chemical arms control and disarmament agreements which enhance security and stability for all. In particular, they call for the early entry into force of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and commit themselves to continue the process of strengthening peace in Europe through conventional arms control within the framework of the CSCE. They welcome the prospect of new negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on the reduction of their short-range nuclear forces.

8. They welcome the contribution that confidence- and security-building measures have made to lessening tensions and fully support the further development of such measures. They reaffirm the importance of the "Open Skies" initiative and their determination to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion as soon as possible.

9. They pledge to work together with the other CSCE participating States to strengthen the CSCE process so that it can make an even greater contribution to security and stability in Europe. They recognize in particular the need to enhance political consultations among CSCE participants and to develop other CSCE mechanisms. They are convinced that the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and agreement on a substantial new set of CSBMs, together with new patterns of co-operation in the framework of the CSCE, will lead to increased security and thus to enduring peace and stability in Europe.

10. They believe that the preceding points reflect the deep longing of their peoples for close co-operation and mutual understanding and declare that they will work steadily for the further development of their relations in accordance with the present Declaration as well as with the principles set forth in the Helsinki Final Act.

The original of this Declaration of which the English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic will be transmitted to the Government of France which will retain it in its archives. The Government of France is requested to transmit the text of the Declaration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with a view to its circulation to all the members of the organization as an official document of the United Nations, indicating that it is not eligible for registration under Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations. Each of the signatory States will receive from the Government of France a true copy of this Declaration.

In witness whereof the undersigned High Representatives have subscribed their signatures below.

Done at Paris, on 19 November 1990, in the name of:

(COUNTRIES, SIGNATORIES AND DESIGNATIONS TO FOLLOW HEREUNDER)

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

(Signed) Helmut KOHL
Federal Chancellor

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(Signed) George H.W. BUSH
President of the United States of America

THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

(Signed) Wilfried MARTENS
Prime Minister

THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

(Signed) Jelyu JELEV
President of the Republic

CANADA

(Signed) Martin Brian MULRONEY
Prime Minister

THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK

(Signed) Poul SCHLÜTER
Prime Minister

THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN

(Signed) Felipe GONZALEZ MARQUEZ
Prime Minister

THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

(Signed) François MITTERRAND
President of the French Republic

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND

(Signed) The Rt. Hon. Margaret THATCHER, F.R.S., M.P.
Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury
and Minister for the Civil Service

THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

(Signed) Constantin MITSOTAKIS
Prime Minister

THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

(Signed) József ANTALL
Prime Minister

THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND

(Signed) Steingrímur HERMANNSSON
Prime Minister

THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

(Signed) Giulio ANDREOTTI
Prime Minister

THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

(Signed) Jacques SANTER
Prime Minister, Stateminister

THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY

(Signed) Gro Harlem BRUNDTLAND
Prime Minister

THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

(Signed) Ruud F.M. LUBBERS
Prime Minister

THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

(Signed) Tadeusz MAZOWIECKI
President of the Council of Ministers

THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC

(Signed) Anibal CAVACO SILVA
Prime Minister

ROMANIA

(Signed) Ion ILIESCU
President of Romania

THE CZECH AND SLOVAK FEDERAL REPUBLIC

(Signed) Václav HAVEL
President of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic

THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

(Signed) Turgut ÖZAL
President of the Republic of Turkey

THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

(Signed) M. GORBATCHEV
President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics